



IHB File No. S3/6003

<p>CIRCULAR LETTER 94/2012 12 November 2012</p>

**FINAL TEXT OF REVISED RESOLUTION 1/2005 AS AMENDED –
*IHO RESPONSE TO DISASTERS***

References:

- a. Decision 14 of the XVIII IHC - Resolution 1/2005 as amended.
- b. IHO CL 73/2012 dated 20 July 2012 - *IHO Response to Disasters*
- c. IHO Publication M3 - *Resolutions of the International Hydrographic Organization*

Dear Hydrographer,

1. Decision 14 of the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference (see Reference a.) agreed a number of revisions and additions to the text of Resolution 1/2005 - *IHO Response to Disasters*. The IHB was invited to develop an improved edited text to assist clarity and make the Resolution gender-neutral and to circulate that text to Member States for any comment. This was done under cover of Reference b.
2. The IHB would like to thank the nine Member States that replied to Reference b: Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Japan, Mexico, The Netherlands, Russian Federation, and the United States. All nine replies supported the revised text proposed by the IHB. Canada, France and the USA provided additional comments. These are given in Annex A to this letter.
3. Canada and the USA expressed concern that the specific role of national HOs may vary considerably from Member State to Member State. This may limit some States' ability to implement all the procedures and guidelines described in the amended Resolution. The USA also expressed concern regarding the extent of the role of the IHB as a "coordinator" of global or regional disaster response.
4. To accommodate the concerns of Canada and USA, but without adjusting the meaning or intention of the Resolution, the IHB has included appropriate clarifications to the final text to be published in IHO Publication M3 - *Resolutions of the International Hydrographic Organization* (Reference c.). These clarifications are highlighted in the text of the final revised Resolution, as shown in Annex B.
5. France suggested that the Inter Regional Coordination Committee (IRCC) should investigate further the extension of Resolution 1/2005 to include prevention and alert systems. The Directing Committee notes that the IHO response to disasters is covered by task IRCC4 09/2013 - *Contribute to improving the framework of IHO response to marine disasters in the IRCC Work Programme*. In this context, Regional Hydrographic Commissions and Member States, such as France, may submit proposals to extend the scope of Resolution 1/2005 for consideration by IRCC if they wish.

6. Reference c, that will include the text shown in Annex B, will be updated as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Robert Ward', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert WARD
President

Annex A: Comments by Member States

Annex B: Final Text of Revised Resolution 1/2005 as amended - *IHO Response to Disasters*

MEMBER STATES' COMMENTS

CANADA:

In reviewing this revised Technical Resolution in detail Canada is noting that while the aims of the Resolution are appropriate, there are components of this Resolution that are not within the mandate of the Canadian Hydrographic Service and possibly other HOs. The responsibility for emergency preparedness is a matrix responsibility in Canada where Security Services, Coast Guard and National Defence would at minimum be the coordinating bodies. An example of the difficulty for CHS would be the following statements:

“The International Hydrographic Organization, its Member States and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions should ensure that appropriate procedures and guidelines are in place so as to enable an immediate and appropriate response to any future disaster affecting coastal areas of the world.

These procedures should provide guidance to be followed at the national, regional and international levels within the over-arching structure of the IHO.

Such procedures and guidelines should aim to: (CHS comment: with exception of the last bullet these are all shared responsibilities with other authorities and agencies)

- *ensure the immediate assessment of damage and its effect on the safety of navigation of national and international shipping;*
- *immediately inform mariners and other interested parties of relevant damage and any dangers, particularly with respect to navigational hazards;*
- *re-establish the basic key maritime transportation routes, and*
- *ensure that charts and other hydrographic information of affected areas are updated as soon as possible.”*

Understanding that IHO Technical Resolutions do not legally bind Member States, it follows that the wording should be appropriate in order to give credibility to the Resolution, the Member States who agree to them and the IHO itself, Canada would suggest a phrase be added to put the HO role in context and offers the following example:

Hydrographic Offices should therefore plan to respond immediately after the occurrence of such severe disasters recognizing that the authority of Hydrographic Offices varies from State to State which may limit their influence on all of the advice provided below.

FRANCE:

France approves the modified wording of the “Introduction” and the “Procedures and Guidelines: By Coastal States” of the Resolution 1/2005 as amended.

In a second step, and as indicated in France’s comments on PRO 1 in the Red Book of the XVIIIth I.H. Conference, it would be good to extend the scope of this Resolution to also cover prevention and alert systems. On this basis, France suggests that the IRCC gives its opinion on the following proposed additional modifications:

Title of the Resolution

Instead of: **IHO Response to Disasters**

Should read: **IHO Response to Disasters and Prevention and alert systems**

In the body of the Resolution in the Introduction paragraph

Instead of: “... It is also very important for Coastal States to collect relevant coastal and bathymetric data in their areas of responsibility and to make this available to the appropriate organizations to support the establishment and improvement of tsunami early warning systems, protection of coastal areas and relevant simulation studies. Any necessary regional cooperation for the collection of shallow and deep-water bathymetry can be coordinated through the IHB in cooperation with other States in the Region and International Organizations as appropriate.”

Should read: It is also very important for Coastal States to collect relevant coastal and bathymetric data in their areas of responsibility and to make this available to the appropriate organizations to support the establishment and improvement of tsunami early warning systems, protection of coastal areas and relevant simulation studies. **Coastal States must also cooperate for example to put in place systems for the exchange and transmission, in real time, of tidal data, properly selected, likely to provide early warnings of tsunamis or of storm surges caused by storm waves.** Any necessary regional cooperation for the collection of ~~data shallow and deep water bathymetry~~ can be coordinated through the IHB **in liaison with the regional hydrographic commissions**, ~~cooperation with~~ other States in the Region and International Organizations as appropriate.

[Note: Add an 's' to "internationale" in the French version]

USA:

The US fully appreciates that the events of 2004 and 2011 as well as others have dramatically highlighted the critical role of hydrographic offices in responding to and mitigating the navigation-related impacts of maritime disasters. The initiative shown by Japan at the XVIIIth International Hydrographic Conference and the IHB to reduce future potential loss of life and damage proactively is very much appreciated.

The US wishes to highlight the potential for confusion when referring to the role of the IHB as a “coordinator” of global or regional disaster responses. We note the considerable demand of human resources, information and time that may be implied on the part of the IHB in offering to coordinate regional or global responses to maritime disasters. We therefore encourage the IHB to clarify the scope of what is envisioned for this coordinator role. We suggest that it be limited to facilitating communications between appropriate Member State Hydrographic Offices or the affected regional hydrographic commissions when hydrographic assistance is required.

We also want to note that the U.S. Hydrographic Office does not coordinate the national response to maritime disasters. We respond as directed and primarily in a scientific or limited assessment capacity on a case by case basis through national coordination mechanisms often led by the U.S. Coast Guard or other designated agency such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In the case of U.S. response to international maritime disasters, agencies such as the U.S. Navy and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency often take a lead in coordinating efforts across the U.S. government. Depending on the specific nature of the event, the specific roles of the various affected agencies will vary considerably which makes it very difficult to designate a sole national point of contact. We will have further discussions with NGA and Navy to determine appropriate points of contact as suggested in the modified language.

Further language should be added to the Technical Resolution recognizing that the authority of Hydrographic Offices varies from Member State to Member State which may limit their ability to execute all the suggested procedures and guidelines, such as providing comprehensive damage assessment summaries. We support the intent of the edited draft with the above understandings and note the nature of the IHO Resolution as a general recommendation for coastal states consideration or

application as appropriate. We will work with our colleagues in the relevant regional hydrographic commissions so that we may take any useful steps in the spirit of the resolution.

Final Text of Revised Resolution 1/2005 as amended - IHO Response to Disasters

IHO RESPONSE TO DISASTERS	1/2005 as amended	94/2012	K4.5
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1 Introduction

The 2004 and 2011 Indian Ocean and Japan tsunami not only severely affected local communities through the widespread loss of life and the extensive destruction of most facilities, but also severely affected safety of navigation through the destruction of port facilities and the creation of new navigational obstacles. A huge number of refugees were created and immediately suffered from shortages of food, water and fuel. In such circumstances support by sea transport was vital and depended on the immediate restoration of appropriate hydrographic and charting services. Hydrographic Offices should therefore plan to respond immediately after the occurrence of such severe disasters, **within their area of responsibility, which may vary from Member State to Member State.**

The International Hydrographic Organization, its Member States and the Regional Hydrographic Commissions should ensure that appropriate procedures and guidelines are in place so as to enable an immediate and appropriate response to any future disaster affecting coastal areas of the world.

These procedures should provide guidance to be followed at the national, regional and international levels within the over-arching structure of the IHO.

Such procedures and guidelines should aim to:

- ensure the immediate assessment of damage and its effect on the safety of navigation of national and international shipping,
- immediately inform mariners and other interested parties of relevant damage and any dangers, particularly with respect to navigational hazards,
- re-establish the basic key maritime transportation routes, and
- ensure that charts and other hydrographic information of affected areas are updated as soon as possible.

The procedures and guidelines should identify the type of actions required and the likely support **from Hydrographic Offices** needed to recover from the damage.

Appropriate global or regional actions can be co-ordinated through the IHB, in **liaison** with the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commissions, **IHO** Member States, other Coastal States and relevant International Organizations, as appropriate **to the circumstances, based on the general framework described in section 2 below.**

It is also very important for Coastal States to collect relevant coastal and bathymetric data in their areas of responsibility and to make this available to the appropriate organizations to support the establishment and improvement of tsunami early warning systems, protection of coastal areas and relevant simulation studies. Any necessary regional cooperation for the collection of shallow and deep-water bathymetry can be coordinated through the IHB in liaison with the relevant Regional Hydrographic Commission, **IHO Member States, other Coastal States** and **relevant** International Organizations as appropriate.

2 Procedures and Guidelines

a) By Coastal States:

All Coastal States should have contingency plans developed in advance in order to be prepared in case a disaster occurs. After the occurrence of a disaster affecting coastal areas under its jurisdiction, each State should promulgate Maritime Safety Information and conduct a preliminary survey to confirm the principal transportation routes, according to the extent of the damage. In response to the reconstruction of ports, each State should undertake hydrographic surveys so as to keep the charts updated. These actions should be coordinated with neighbouring States, Regional Hydrographic Commissions and others as appropriate.

It is important that each Coastal State provides both a senior point of contact and a working point of contact for communication and coordination purposes; this should include the Director of the Hydrographic Service or Maritime Safety Agency or other appropriate persons with the appropriate authority and who are familiar with maritime procedures.

Contingency plans should contain the following key elements:

- i) Immediately upon the occurrence of a disaster, including tsunamis, promulgate appropriate navigational warnings and necessary information and advice to shipping through existing channels (e.g. NAVTEX, SafetyNET, etc.). In addition and following further monitoring and assessment, promulgate updated warnings, information and advice in accordance with the development of the event.
- ii) Co-operate with the NAVAREA Co-ordinator and other national co-ordinators so that warnings, information and advice can be made available to mariners beyond the area of national jurisdiction as soon as is practicable.
- iii) Assess the extent of damage to the coastal area particularly to ports, harbours, straits, approaches, and other restricted areas.
- iv) Assess, in co-operation with other national agencies, for example, lighthouse and port authorities, the extent of damage to navigational aids.
- v) Prioritize actions and allocate resources in order to identify requirements and undertake preliminary re-surveys starting with the most critical areas for navigation, aiming at ensuring the passage of support and supplies through maritime channels and ports, and the marking of new dangers where necessary.
- vi) Assess the specific effects on shipping of the existence of obstacles and any changes to the seafloor that can hinder navigation, taking full account of the effects of drifting obstacles which may also hinder preliminary survey results.
- vii) Inform the Chair of the Regional Hydrographic Commission and the IHB of the situation, providing details of the damage, actions taken and indicating what support, if any, is needed.
- viii) Take the following action to assess and define new hydrographic or cartographic requirements, including:
 1. Conducting hydrographic surveys in harbours and approaches as soon as practicable wherever the depth is likely to have changed due to geomorphic change, obstacles, or accumulation of sediment. Surveys should be progressed incrementally in support of progress in reconstruction of port facilities.
 2. Checking and confirming relevant benchmarks. Re-defining chart datum, if necessary.
 3. Providing nautical information as soon as practicable. Providing chart correction information or new editions of charts incrementally according to priorities and available resources. Indicating newly surveyed areas in chart correction information or on new editions of charts in order to

highlight areas of more reliable information in areas where significant changes of depth have taken place.

ix) Provide follow-up reports to the **Chair** of the Regional Hydrographic Commission and the IHB.

b) By Regional Hydrographic Commissions:

The **Chair** of the ...

*... no other changes in the remainder of the previous Resolution
except replacement of the word "Chairman" to read "Chair"*